

RCP Solid Waste Chapter

Draft Goals, Outcomes and Action Plan

Goal

A Zero Waste¹ region that conserves our natural resources, reduces our reliance on landfills, and creates new economic opportunities in the most environmentally responsible manner possible.

Outcomes

- All SCAG region jurisdictions should meet a 30% waste disposal rate by 2035 to minimize landfilling providing appropriate employment of the technology is permitted and diversion credit is provided by the State including, but not limited to, appropriate and environmentally sound conversion technology and other actions and strategies contained in this chapter.
- Conversion technologies should be available as a diversion strategy in the next five years with one or more new conversion technology facilities sited in the SCAG region by 2035.

¹ Zero Waste does not assume that 100% of waste is ultimately diverted from landfills. Rather, it is a whole system approach that aims to completely change the way materials flow through society with a goal of no waste being generated.

Solid Waste Action Plan

Constrained Actions

SW 1. Develop and support waste prevention and reduction practices.

SW 1.01. SCAG shall encourage all levels of government to advocate for source reduction and waste prevention.

SW 1.02. SCAG shall discourage the siting of new landfills unless all other waste reduction and prevention actions have been fully explored.

SW 1.03. SCAG shall discourage exporting of locally generated waste outside of the SCAG region. Disposal within the county of waste origin shall be encouraged as much as possible.

SW 1.04. SCAG shall encourage the use of green technologies, such as clean locomotives for waste-by-rail systems, for long-distance transport of waste when all local disposal alternatives have been exhausted.

SW 1.05. SCAG shall continue to encourage the CIWMB to conduct studies to quantify the full life cycle costs of all components of local government waste diversion programs.

SW 1.06. Local governments should continue to adopt and refine programs to comply with state solid waste diversion rate mandates and, where possible, encourage further actions to exceed these rates (1996 RCP; 187).

SW 1.07. Local governments should update general plans to reflect solid waste sustainability issues such as waste reduction goals and programs (1996 RCP; 135).

SW 1.08. CIWMB should continue enforcing solid waste diversion mandates that are enacted by the Legislature (1996 RCP; 186).

SW 1.09. CIWMB should increase waste diversion incentives to promote waste diversion past the current 50% diversion mandate of AB939.

SW 1.10. Federal, State, and local governments should provide programmatic incentives, including some financing or loan options, for implementation of preferred projects.

SW 1.11. Federal, State and Local jurisdictions should continue to develop zero waste initiatives that support policies promoting product stewardship and extended producer responsibility principles aimed at preventing waste.

SW 1.12. Federal and State governments should explore financial incentives such as tax credits, subsidies, and price supports for recycling, composting, and conversion technologies.

SW 1.13. Federal, State, and local governments should explore opportunities for voluntary actions to exceed the 50% waste diversion target.

SW 2. Develop a stable recycling market for the region.

- SW 2.01.** SCAG shall encourage policies promoting the expansion of recycling programs and facilities that provide local recycling services to the public and private sectors.
- SW 2.02.** SCAG shall encourage and advocate for legislative approaches to help market recyclables through cost-effective financial support.
- SW 2.03.** SCAG shall encourage the development of viable, local, and sustainable markets to divert materials from landfills (e.g., recycling markets).
- SW 2.04.** SCAG shall encourage the adoption and implementation of green building policies at all levels of government.
- SW 2.05.** Local governments should create ordinances that require green building standards be met for all new construction. This will encourage the use and re-use of recycled, discarded, or demolished building materials; discourage the use of virgin material whenever possible; and help divert useful resources away from landfills.
- SW 2.06.** Local governments should require the inclusion of a waste management plan that promote maximum reuse and recycling of construction and demolition debris in construction contracts.
- SW 2.07.** Local governments should develop ordinances that require recycling and waste prevention efforts at all large events and venues (as defined in AB 2176).
- SW 2.08.** SCAG shall adopt and implement “green” procurement policies and participate in programs that promote the purchase of recycled content products, such as the State Agency Buy Recycled (SABRC) campaign.
- SW 2.09.** SCAG shall encourage local governments to develop procurement policies that define minimum recycled content guidelines and require the purchase of recycled content products.
- SW 2.10.** The State should implement AB 75 which requires all State Agencies to implement a recycled content procurement program known as the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC).
- SW 2.11.** The Federal government should enact legislation that require federal government agencies or agencies receiving federal funds to institute a recycled content procurement program, favoring the purchase of recycled products over products produced with virgin materials.
- SW 2.12.** Federal, State, and local governments should support and promote CIWMB actions that assist in the development of viable, sustainable markets and stimulate local, national, and international markets for recycled commodities, such as CIWMB’s Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program that provides loans and technical assistance to businesses located in a specific zone that use materials from the waste stream to manufacture their products.

SW 3. Support environmentally friendly alternative waste management strategies such as composting and conversion technologies.

- SW 3.01.** SCAG shall support and encourage the development and siting of environmentally friendly conversion technologies.
- SW 3.02.** SCAG shall support and encourage the CIWMB to conduct life cycle assessments of **all** components of the waste **disposal** and **diversion** processes, including but not limited to, conversion technologies, composting, recycling, and waste disposal at landfills. This analysis must include the environmental impacts, including emissions, use of resources and personnel, and costs of same to collect wastes and recyclables, transport locally or anywhere in the United States or internationally, process to separate recyclables, and production of end products using collected recycled materials.
- SW 3.03.** SCAG shall support and encourage CIWMB, Air Resources Board, California Water Resources Board and other state legislative administrative actions to streamline the permitting process for solid waste conversion and composting technologies and to address increasing regulatory challenges relative to siting, air quality, and odor issues.
- SW 3.04.** SCAG shall continue to support and encourage legislation redefining conversion technologies as a diversion strategy and the development of these facilities in Southern California.
- SW 3.05.** Local governments should require public facilities that produce large amounts of food waste, such as school cafeterias, and encourage private businesses, such as restaurants and grocery stores to divert food waste to composting facilities.
- SW 3.06.** Local governments should develop ordinances to divert food waste from large events and venues to composting facilities after all food waste prevention and foodbank
- SW 3.07.** CIWMB should actively promote solid waste composting and solid waste strategies and provide information concerning the costs and benefits of these technologies to local governments.
- SW 3.08.** CIWMB should take administrative action to streamline the permitting process for solid waste transformation technologies.
- SW 3.09.** The State should establish policies that provide (a) diversion credit for beneficial use of post-recycled solid waste residuals managed at non-burn conversion technology facilities, and (b) separate and remove conversion technologies from the definition of "transformation."
- SW 3.10.** The State should establish policies that provide financial support and/or tax incentives for the development of pilot or demonstration solid waste conversion technologies.
- SW 3.11.** The Federal government should establish a definition that conversion of residual solid waste material is considered diversion.
- SW 3.12.** Federal, State, and local governments should support federal and state incentives for research and demonstration projects for solid waste conversion technologies.

SW 4. Coordinate regional approaches and strategic siting of waste management facilities.

- SW 4.01.** SCAG shall advocate for the elimination of unnecessary duplication and/or restrictive regulations that hinder recycling, reuse, composting and conversion of solid waste.
- SW 4.02.** SCAG shall encourage and support consensus building among key stakeholders and members of the public to promote zero waste strategies and conversion technologies.
- SW 4.03.** SCAG should coordinate region-wide source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and conversion technology initiatives to increase economies of scale.
- SW 4.04.** CIWMB should facilitate and encourage local government coordination of consumer awareness programs to minimize unnecessary duplication of effort in solid waste outreach programs carried out by local government.
- SW 4.05.** SCAG should encourage the distribution of industrial impacts from all types of solid waste management facilities including recycling, composting, and conversion technology facilities.
- SW 4.06.** Local governments should promote siting solid waste conversion and composting technologies, individually or in conjunction with other technologies.
- SW 4.07.** State and local governments should facilitate the creation of synergistic linkages between community businesses such as, the development of eco-industrial parks and materials exchange centers where one entity's waste stream becomes another entity's raw material.
- SW 4.08.** State and local governments should prioritize siting of new waste management facilities including recycling, composting, and conversion technology facilities in conjunction with existing waste management and material recovery facilities.
- SW 4.09.** Federal, State, and local governments should make priority funding available for projects that involve co-location of facilities.

SW 5. Coordinate educational approaches.

- SW 5.01.** SCAG shall support the development of public education and outreach efforts and increase awareness of the benefits of a regional zero waste policy.
- SW 5.02.** Local governments should increase programs to educate the public and increase awareness of reuse, recycling, and composting benefits and consumer education issues at the County and City level, as well as at local school districts and education facilities.
- SW 5.03.** CIWMB should actively promote reuse, recycling, composting and solid waste conversion technology programs and provide information concerning the costs and benefits of these programs to local governments.
- SW 5.04.** The Federal government should provide funding and support for continuation of public education programs on waste management issues.

Strategic Initiatives

SW Strategic 1: Federal and State governments should change incentive structures, from maximizing volume of product sold to deriving profit from resource efficiency.

SW Strategic 2: Federal State and local governments should support and implement source reduction policies which promote product stewardship through the following actions:

- 2.01S: Support and encourage Federal and State legislation that create incentives for product stewardship.
- 2.02S: Require life cycle assessments (LCA) for different types of packaging.
- 2.03S: Create ordinances that require producers to provide products with less packaging, more recyclable material content, and less virgin material. Packaging should be easily recyclable or biodegradable.
- 2.04S: Create incentives for producers to voluntarily produce "sustainable" packaging and products which includes, increasing the useful life of products through durability and reparability; increasing production efficiency to produce less production waste; facilitating material or product reuse; and decreasing of the toxicity of products.
- 2.05S: Create incentives for packaging manufacturers to design for the environment and support the development of infrastructure and markets for the recycling of their products.
- 2.06S: Support State programs that offer incentives to those who use recycled content to encourage growth in the recycled contents market.
- 2.07S: Enact extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiatives for products.
- 2.08S: Encourage public-private partnerships with product stewardship goals.
- 2.09S: Require takeout food distributors to utilize packaging that is compatible with recycling and composting options available.

SW Strategic 3: Federal and State and local governments should institute "eco-taxes" and EPR initiatives that require companies to internalize environmental damage costs associated with their products. These would include the following actions:

- 3.01S: Identify and alter tax policies that enhance polluting industries and products at the expense of more environmentally benign systems and goods.
- 3.02S: Shift taxes from income and labor ("goods") to resource depletion, wasting, and polluting activities ("bads").
- 3.03S: End federal and state subsidies for virgin materials extraction, processing, and manufacturing.

- 3.04S: Add a levy, quota, or ban on one-way beverage containers or require the use of refillable beverage containers only.
- 3.05S: Add a packaging tax with rates based on the environmental impacts of different packaging materials (based on Danish system).
- 3.06S: Require that companies take back certain types of packaging for reuse or recycling.
- 3.07S: Ban construction and demolition materials from landfills.
- 3.08S: Ban Styrofoam and other unrecyclable, plastic fast-food packaging.
- 3.09S: Promote SIS (Service Innovation for Sustainability) – optimization of product use and longevity.